

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. By the Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-16, and 20 are amended. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the application. Support for the claims can be found throughout the original specification, including the original claims, and the drawings.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Office Action, at page 2, objects to the specification for certain informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection and submit that grounds for the objection are obviated by the above amendments to the specification. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, also at page 2, objects to claims 1, 16, 20, and 21 for certain informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection and submit that, with respect to claims 1, 16, and 20, grounds for the objection are obviated by the above amendments to the claims. With respect to claim 21, Applicants respectfully submit that no correction to the claim language is necessary. See, for example, the specification at page 8, lines 10-14, and Figure 3 of the present application, which describe a data transmission line trunk group information database 120, as well as a data transmission line trunk group line information database 140. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, at page 3, rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that grounds for the rejection are obviated by the above amendments to claims 1-5, 11, 12, and 16. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 16 are allowable. Claims 2-15 and 17-21 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as additional patentable subject matter recited therein and the combinations thereof.

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Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2004

Docket No. P-0254

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Garth D. Richmond**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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